

# Long Island ABATE

American Bikers Aimed Toward Education

NEWSLETTER

June 2013



Suffolk County Leg. Rob Calarco with members from LI ABATE by one of our signs.  
Promoting Motorcycle Awareness Month. See page 17 for info on the press release.

*"Dedicated to FREEDOM of the Road"*

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING June 11th**

**[www.longislandabate.org](http://www.longislandabate.org)**

**1-888-LIABATE(542-2283)**

## ABATE is American Bikers Aimed Toward Education

The main purpose of the ABATE organization is to work toward continued freedom of the road by insuring that motorcyclist's point of view is presented to our legislators and to promote motorcycle safety, rider education and awareness. We are trying to alleviate the very real possibility of "Big Brother Government". We encourage all our members to be informed registered voters. We write letters to our elected officials and stay aware of what is going on with motorcycle legislation, education, and other transportation issues.

We welcome interested persons to any of our activities or to join our organization.

### Long Island ABATE Officers

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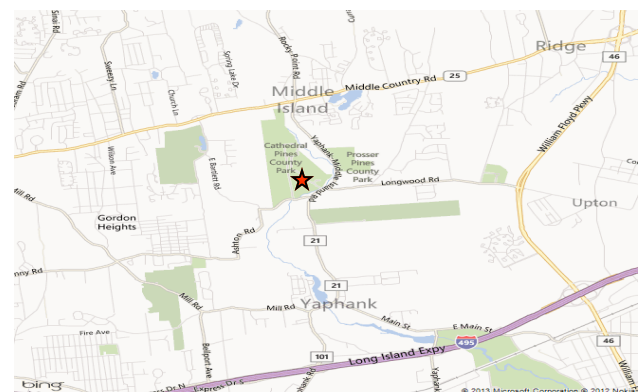
Long Island ABATE encourages all members to submit letters, articles or cartoons they feel may be of interest to fellow ABATE members. ABATE of Long Island supports the rights of ALL motorcyclists, however Long Island ABATE does not endorse any products or services other than its own. All articles and photo's within the contents of this newsletter and our web-site are property of Long Island ABATE. You may not use them without express written consent of the newsletter editor, web-master, or LI ABATE board.

All general membership meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month  
**NEXT MEETING IS June 11th** at the **NEW** meeting location  
**CATHEDRAL PINES COUNTY PARK**, in the Activity Building  
116 Yaphank/Middle Island Rd. Middle Island NY 11953

**ALL** are welcome so come on down!

There will be FREE B-B-Q and beverages starting at 6:30  
and the meeting starts at 7:30

Enter the park,  
pass the guard booth  
(seasonal) and continue  
straight. The activities  
building is the large  
building on the left  
in front of the RV  
camping sites.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ABATE RUNS

TBD	25th Anniversary Party	TBD
June 9th	VETS RUN	Riverhead Elks
August 17th	CAMPOUT	Cathedral Pines
November 3rd	St MARY'S TOY RUN	TBD

If you have an event you would like published on our event calendar, please contact us through the hotline or by e-mail.  
Submissions must be in no later than the 20th to have posted in the following month.

## JUNE 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 FAMILY JAMMIN OPEN HOUSE
9 ABATE VETERANS RUN	10	11 ABATE GENERAL MEETING	12	13	14	15 BIKERS FOR CHRIST DOWN BIKER RUN * <b>SEE BELOW</b>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 RED KNIGHTS RIDE FOR AUTISM	24	25 ABATE BOARD MEETING	26 LJ JAMES FORGET WORK LETS RIDE	27	28	29 TWO 4 SEVEN RIDERS EAST GREAT AMERICAN BASH
30 FIRE RIDERS X-MAS IN JUNE		* ALSO ON 15TH BRIDGE RUNNERS MC BLOCK PARTY SACRED STEEL MC SPRING FLING BOOTS ON THE GROUND VA RUN		* ALSO ON 30TH RYDERS DON'T PLAY BIKINI BIKE WASH		



# Long Island ABATE'S VETERANS APPRECIATION RUN



**Sunday June 9, 2013**

**Sign up from 9 - 11**

**Riverhead Elks Lodge**

**1239 E. Main St. Riverhead**

**Ride to Montauk for a  
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**For more info contact 1-888-LIABATE or visit us at [www longislandabate.org](http://www.longislandabate.org)**



# PRESIDENTS PAGE



Since Wayne took over the newsletter he has added a new feature which is to include a picture of the Officers with their articles. I happen to think it's a GREAT idea for most. However, I don't like the idea of including mine. (if you looked like me you would understand) So instead of my picture I asked him to include a picture of John Wayne as a goof. While I do admire the character he portrayed, I do not think that I am him. I am only mentioning this because I have heard that some people might be taking my intent wrong. I will do my best to look for a picture that I can tolerate. If you want to know if I found one, look to the picture above to see if I did. Oh well, maybe I will have better luck next month.

I assume that you have been noticing our numerous awareness signs throughout Suffolk County. We still have about 4 more 4'x8' and 4 more 4'x4' signs available (we made 16 additional signs this year) so let us know if you know of a good place to install one. Hopefully by the time you read this we will have a few installed in Port Jeff Village as well. Our radio commercials containing Doug Gray from the Marshall Tucker Band have been reaching a lot of people also. They are airing on 103.9 and 96.1. You may have noticed that we took half the commercials and made a shorter 30 second commercial in order to have twice as many airings for the same price. Both versions seem to be getting the point across.


On May 4<sup>th</sup> we had a Regional meeting with the our Regional Coordinator Tanya Cruz which included Bill Ferraro-President of the Brooklyn chapter, Dev -President of the Brooklyn Alliance chapter and me as our chapter President. We meet quarterly to discuss issues as a region but this time we were informed that Tom Alton, the president of NY ABATE would be attending as a guest. Once we learned that he would be attending, we quickly contacted Matt Grossman, the Vice President of NY ABATE to please attend also so that there would be someone to give us the straight scoop from the state board. Matt was very happy to attend but unfortunately Matt missed the ferry and was an hour late so he didn't get to hear all of what Tom had to say but many of you who attended as guests were able to see Tom for themselves. All I have to say is God help this organization if this man is re-elected!

May 8<sup>th</sup> Stavros and I attended a fund raiser for Suffolk Legislator Tom Muratore. (we went as ABATE rep's but we did not use ABATE money to pay for it) We went in order to show the Legislator that we appreciate his continued support of ABATE. They made a point of introducing LI ABATE during the announcements. While we were there, we had the opportunity to speak with a half dozen other elected officials and political party leaders. Legislator Muratore insisted on us giving him something to work on for ABATE. I explained my plans to seek a meeting to meet with representatives from the SCPD in order to try to receive current motorcycle crash data. Currently we only have access to data from Albany which is 2 years old. Wouldn't you know it, that we now have access to this info? We are going to try to use it to identify patterns or common denominators within crashes in order to try to target these causes in our campaign.

May 14<sup>th</sup> was our monthly membership meeting. I was so impressed to see 80 people in attendance. Thank you all for attending! We had a free barbeque starting at 6:30 (which I'm sure is why we had so many people attend) but we will take advantage of your desire for a barbeque before the meeting and we will do it again June 11<sup>th</sup> so come back again and bring your friends! While the food was being cooked by Wayne and Bob from Bikers for Christ, I was busy doing an interview with Mitch Proner regarding ABATE. The interview was video reordered and Mitch will create a short video commercial which he will be emailing to registered motorcyclists throughout NY and CT. the reason I agreed to be on film (you know how I feel about the way I look) is because this has great potential to attract new members into NY ABATE as well as LI ABATE! It might be on our website by the time you read this. A big thank you to Mitch Proner for giving us the opportunity to promote ABATE to such a large audience!

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

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# EVENT PHOTO'S





# SAFETY OFFICER



Hi Everyone!

Well there is a lot to get to now that we're in the riding season. First, I would like to thank the Suffolk County Police for all their help in making our Awareness Run a successful and safe day all around. The police escorting the whole way sure made for a pleasant ride.

At the last general meeting, I brought to your attention some up and coming construction on Route 39, but didn't know the details. Luckily some of our members told me that work had already started. I dug a little deeper, pardon the pun, and found out some more information. It turns out the work started last fall but was too cold to pave. This year there will be detours and road closures between 7-11 to Montauk Hgwy in Southhampton. Just use caution and be safe.

At the Awareness Run, Lorenzo asked if I could look into traffic light timing on the corner of 83 (N. Ocean Ave) and Horseblock Rd. After speaking with Alexander Pergo, Assistant Director of DPW (Traffic Engineering) he assured me that it wasn't a case of motorcycle discrimination, but rather a traffic flow issue. He explained it in the simplest of terms. Here goes, the computer that controls the light, shortens the turn arrows so not to interrupt the flow of traffic north and south on 83 at peak hours. He is looking into this and other intersections to better serve cars and motorcycles alike. Please feel free to contact me with any safety concerns you may have.

Just one more thing before you continue on with the rest of the newsletter. I was wondering how many of us would like to get together for an advanced rider course to brush up on some riding skills. If enough people are interested, I'll look into setting something up. We can learn how to keep ourselves a little safer and who knows you might even have one or two laughs.

Safety Officer Joe

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**HOURS... M-W: 10-6 TH-F: 10-7 SA: 10-6 SU: 10-4**



Layout and Design Courtesy of Full Throttle Magazine

*This article is taken from the AMA magazine:*

## STUDY: DRIVERS UNDERESTIMATE DISTRACTED DRIVING DANGERS

Many say using a phone doesn't affect their driving

Most drivers say they will answer a call while driving, and many say they will send a text message. But almost all of them say they would feel unsafe if they were a passenger in a car and the driver was sending a text message. That's one of the surprising findings of the "National Phone Survey on Distracted Driving Attitudes and Behaviors" released by the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) in December.

The new survey involved telephone interviews with more than 6000 drivers across the United States. Wayne Allard, AMA vice president for government relations, says that distracted or inattentive driving has become a major concern to the motorcycling community. "Far too many cases have been documented of motorcyclists being injured or killed as the result of other vehicle operators being distracted or inattentive, he says.

Survey respondents indicated that although they answer calls on most trips and acknowledged few driving situations when they wouldn't use the phone or text, most support bans on texting and cellphone use. "The findings from our new attitude survey help us understand why some people continue to make bad decisions about driving distracted- but what's clear from all of the information we have is that driver distraction continues to be a major problem," says NHTSA Administrator David Strickland. "We need to maintain our focus on this issue through education, laws, enforcement and vehicle design to help keep drivers' attention on the road."

The report also notes: "Overall, only about two-thirds of respondents reported that they could take their eyes off the road for 2 seconds or less before driving becomes significantly more dangerous and young drivers were more likely to indicate that they could take their eyes off the road for *5 to 10 seconds or more*." The AMA Board of Directors has adopted an official position on distracted driving and inattentive vehicle operation to be determined by the courts. Allard says that the AMA's official statement recognizes that all road users- car driver, truck drivers, motorcyclists and even bicyclists- are responsible for the safe operation of their vehicles on public roads and highways. The complete position statement can be found on the AMA website at [AmericanMotorcyclist.com/Rights/Resources](http://AmericanMotorcyclist.com/Rights/Resources).

*Fellow members, This is a hot topic at all safety meetings.....*

*It seems the bottom line is the old "don't do as I do, do as I say" ideology. Most of us think we're superior drivers. While I'm sure there are some people who are more able to multitask behind the wheel, the general population is clearly not as able as they think they are. If we each think we're safe talking or texting while driving, but wouldn't want someone in a car doing that behind us on the road, then where is the disconnect?*

*The article focuses on car drivers; but how many motorcyclists are also distracted by their I-Pod, GPS, or BlueTooth?*

*The AMA official statement recognizes that all road users are responsible for safety on the road; this mirrors the Motorcycle Safety Foundation stance. Whether we are in our cars, on our bikes, or on the road in any other capacity, it's incumbent upon each of us to do the right thing on the road.*

*Long Island ABATE has done a great job of putting signs up all over Long Island, reminding drivers to "watch for motorcycles". The more of us that are out there, and the more reminders drivers get to look out for us, the better.*



*Submitted by member Manna Cali*

*On the Road Again motorcycle school*



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# VP 1



Well its finally here.. Sunshine and warm weather that is. It took until almost June but its here. And with all this warm weather of course comes more bikes on the road. There has already been way too many accidents this season. Were trying to get the word out there as much as possible, and with things like Brookhaven Town Council voting to install 8 foot Watch for Motorcycle signs throughout the town, Suffolk County

Legislator Rob Calarco holding a press conference at one of our signs and bringing attention to Motorcycle Awareness Month (thanks Rob and everyone that showed up), The many signs we have installed with more to come the message is getting out there. Don't forget the commercials. I'm sure everyone has heard them by now. I think they are awesome and they definitely get the point across. But everyone can help, get a lawn sign, a bumper sticker, take some to hand out.

Come to a meeting or call the hotline, well get it to you somehow. If you know of a good location for a 4'x4' or 8' sign let us know. The more we remind people to be alert the better we'll be. One of the things I tell the students is 'Its hard to see something your not looking for'. And we all know, unfortunately they're not looking for us out there, so lets remind them we're here.. Speaking of making people alert, we attended an event put on by Newsday this month. The event brought in nearly 13,000 people and was **great** exposure for LI ABATE. We handed out many bumper stickers, lawn signs, and some new informative material we just produced geared toward the motorist. We even handed out rubber bracelets that say watch for motorcycles to the kids, which were a big hit and got the parents to our booth to get info and talk to us. We had the 'beer goggles' which was another big hit. They simulate about a .07 BAC. People are asked to put them on and walk a straight line. It's a big eye opener for many and another thing to get people talking to us and hearing what we're about. I would say the event was a success and the crowd was very welcoming and responsive to us and I'm looking forward to doing it again. The B-B-Q at the last meeting went real well and the turnout was fantastic, so were doing it again. Come down for some burgers and dogs starting at 6:30 have some fun and hear about some of the exciting things we have going on, the meeting will begin at 7:30. Don't forget the Vets run this month. Bill has been working hard getting everything ready and we're hoping for a big turnout. If you would like to help with anything, bike parking, sign up etc. just let us know. We always could use more help and encourage people to get involved. We're still working on our 25th anniversary party and should have some details soon.

Wayne

# VP 2

Hello, if you are like me you are waiting for spring as May comes to an end. What is with this weather? The rain and cool temps. I hope it ends soon. Thanks to all who helped and came out to support our Awareness Run, it was a great success. We have a lot going on this summer. The Vet's run is June 9 rain or shine. The Campout is Aug 17th. As most of you know due to circumstances beyond our control Marshall Tucker will not be playing at our campout. We are seeking a band or two to perform. We will keep you posted. We still need help with set up, bike games. Clean up, etc. Please contact a board member if you can help. If you would like tickets please contact me and I will be more than happy to meet you. Hope to see you all in the wind and sun. Stavros



*Left.* An Event goer attempts to walk a straight line wearing the beer goggles' during Newsdays Field of Wheels. The goggles are used to simulate the effects of alcohol and drew a crowd throughout the day, giving us opportunity to talk to people and hand out literature about motorcycle awareness. *Right.* The ABATE booth had lots of activity throughout the day. You can view more event photos at [newsday.com/fieldofwheels.com](http://newsday.com/fieldofwheels.com)



Thank you to East Moriches Community Ambulance for helping spread the message. Pictured are members from the ambulance company along with LI ABATE members.

# TREASURERS REPORT



By the time you get this Memorial Day will have come and gone. I hope you were able to take time out to remember the men and women who made the

ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives for our Country and freedoms. We also have to honor those men and women who served in the armed forces in peace and war. Long Island ABATE does something special each year to honor these individuals with the Veterans Appreciation Run to Montauk. This year the run is being held on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Sign up will be at the Riverhead Elks 9 to 11 AM. Cyril

Fitzsimmons is hosting us again for the after party at his restaurant in Amagansett. We have a

third backer for our 2013 run which means a rider and passenger paying \$20 and \$10 will result in one bike generating \$120 to local veterans causes. Please come out for this run and bring your significant other or even your insignificant other for that matter. Drag your friends along. We need all of you. If you can't make the run send in a donation. LI ABATE's board will be sure 100% will get to worthy Veteran causes. Also on the day of the event we will be passing around a jug for additional donations. Give until it hurts. Last year we raised \$21,000. This year with our additional backer we should go beyond that. Let's show our veterans and active duty military where the bikers of Long Island hearts are.

We also will be doing a special salute to the United States Army this year. Every Veteran who served in the Army will be awarded a 3'X5' US Army Flag at the ceremony in Montauk. We also have two special guests that will be at this event. Both are World War II Veterans and both landed on Normandy France during the invasion of Europe. Mike was a gunner on an LST that the crew landed on Omaha Beach on D Day June 6, 1944. Our other guest is George a rifleman with the 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The 79<sup>th</sup> landed on Normandy shortly after D Day and were in battle for 248 days. George was with them until late into the winter of 1945. He was captured by the enemy and forced to do hard labor for the remainder of the war in prison camp Stalag 12A. George will be the first POW to come to our run and be awarded the POW flag. We owe so much to such remarkable warriors like Mike and George.

Please be sure to support Our Vets Run any way you can. We would not enjoy the freedoms we have if it weren't for the men and women who served and are serving in the Armed Forces on the United States of America.

As always I thank you for your support of our Chapter. Please let me know if you have any concerns related to the treasury. The books are always open. Contact me at 631-821-8037 or [nevalnut@aol.com](mailto:nevalnut@aol.com).

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

May 16<sup>th</sup> I took a ride to Washington DC to support the Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) effort to lobby the nation regarding motorcyclists rights. The main bill I went to support is HR 1861 which is sponsored by Representative Sensenbrenner which would prohibit states from accepting federal money from NHTSA in order to perform Motorcycle Only Checkpoints. I tried to see Congressman Bishop while I was there but he was on the floor for a vote. I presented his aide with 70 signed petitions that those of you signed at our last membership meeting which indicated our request for him to support the bill. I haven't heard from him as of yet but I will follow up.

May 18<sup>th</sup> we participated in Newsday's 'Field of Wheels'. I won't elaborate on it because Wayne will discuss it in his article but I do want to mention that this was set up by Wayne and was a huge opportunity for ABATE to reach more than 12,000 people with our motorcycle awareness campaign. Thank you Wayne!

May 21<sup>st</sup> we participated in a press conference with Suffolk Legislator Rob Calarco. 13 of us gathered with the Legislator on the corner on N Ocean ave and Woodside ave in front of one of our awareness signs. Unfortunately the press didn't show up because it was election day for the school districts but many of them indicated they would print the story if it was sent to them. So keep an eye out for the article or you can view it on our website and our facebook page. I would like to publicly thank Legislator Calarco for contacting us and initiating this idea! It's nice to see that he is following in the footsteps of his predecessor Jack "Ledge" Eddington!

May 23<sup>rd</sup> Steve Sorensen set up a meeting with Mayor Garrant. Steve and I met with the Mayor and the Police Chief and had a very productive meeting. We received permission to install our awareness signs and I was appointed to the Villages parking committee which meets twice a month in order to address the parking issues throughout the village. I think it's great that ABATE will be part of the committee and have some influence on the outcome. The one thing that was perfectly clear after the meeting is that **Port Jeff Village is biker friendly!** ABATE has volunteered to be the conduit to share info back and forth from the motorcycle community and the village. The most important request they made was to ask that we not rev our engines while we ride through there because the sound amplifies due to the shape and design of the village. They said it is particularly disturbing to the church just south of the village on Sunday mornings. It seems that when bikers exit the village headed south on Main St (RT 112) they accelerate as they approach the large hill ahead and the Priest has to stop his sermon and wait until the bike noise fades enough for him to continue. Granted, you have to accelerate to climb the hill, but we all know there are 2 ways of accomplishing this; loud or not so loud. So let's show some respect and try not to interfere with the church services! **A little consideration goes a long way!**

May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Roseann and I are going to a Poker Run held in CT by the Connecticut Motorcycle Riders Association (CMRA). If you're wondering what that has to do with LI ABATE, it doesn't. We are going for the sole purpose of having FUN! Please come to our Veterans Appreciation Run on June 9<sup>th</sup> and our membership meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>!

Thank you!

Jim Barr

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# ROAD CAPTAIN



I have been hearing rumors about police harassment in Port Jeff for a while now. Stories of tickets for some pretty ridiculous things and many about parking. I even heard riders say “DON’T GO TO PORT THEY WILL IMPOUND YOUR BIKE.” Every once in a while I go to Port for dinner, walk around, or meet friends for a ride. I myself was getting slightly worried about the police. So I thought that maybe I should go elsewhere, I said “BS.” If I am not doing anything wrong, I am legal with license and almost with the bike, I will go anyplace I want. If I get ticketed for loud pipes, helmet, handle bar height, or something else I know to be illegal, OK. I knew it was wrong but I did it anyway. I PAY THE TICKET. After re-thinking this Port thing I went back to my old theory of **“BELIEVE NOTHING THAT I HEAR and HALF of WHAT I SEE.”** So the next step was to find out WHAT the police are looking for as related to the MOTORCYCLES and THE RIDERS. My girl Pat & I hopped on the bike and headed to Port Jeff one Sunday and spent some time there talking with friends. I was told about tickets being written for parking. Two of PJ officers came past and I asked them what the rules are. They stated that 3 bikes to a spot no problem, 4 and they can ALL be ticketed. MAKES NO SENSE so we asked them if 3 bikes parked and the riders left, then a 4<sup>th</sup> bike parks and that rider leaves the area why should ALL 4 be ticketed. BLANK STARE, well we don’t write tickets for that but we could. After a few other parking issues were asked of them I realized that there was NO clear rule & most of the Village officers DO NOT HASSLE BIKES. I did get a ticket for a side-ways mounted license plate but that was by a Suffolk County officer and he was able to prove that cars & bikes were being checked for violations, NOT just bikes. I mentioned that to Jim Barr and he thought that there was nothing wrong with mounting the plate like that. He went to the director of NYS MOTORCYCLE SAFETY office for information and was able to get me enough information that I was able to get a dismissal on that ticket. THANKS AGAIN Jim.

Next step go to the top, I called the PORT JEFF VILLAGE HALL, and asked for the MAYORS OFFICE. I was transferred to the ASSISTANT to THE MAYOR, a Barbara Sakovich, and was asked “HOW MAY I HELP YOU.” I thought that was kind of nice as I am getting used to, “WHAT DO YOU WANT?”. So I began to explain that I am hearing all kinds of rumors about police harassing motorcycle riders for no reason and that the rumors are growing and I wanted to speak with the mayor. For support of my request I informed her that I was an ABATE member, what ABATE stands for and why I felt we deserved the Mayors time for a meeting. I found out that the Mayor will meet with most anyone if it has to do with the village. Ms. Sakovich said she would speak with the Mayor and call me with meeting dates. WOW, I was shocked. Two days later Ms. Sakovich returned my call and asked if 5/23/13 @ 4 PM would be OK. YES, we will be there. I immediately called Jim Barr and the stage was set. Now I am thinking what can Port Jeff do to not only stop the rumors and clarify the MOTORCYCLE ENFORCEMENT POLICY but, maybe work with the riders. YEAH RIGHT. After ruling out VALET BIKE PARKING and FREE DETAIL while visiting Port I focused on MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS SIGNS. Imagine... that Port Jeff Village putting up AWARENESS signs for us...

May 23<sup>rd</sup> got here fast, its 3:45 PM I am in the Village Hall parking lot. Jim rode in on his bike making noise ( I took my pick up because I was worried about having my bike impounded) and in we go. We walked into Village Hall, made it 10 feet further and were met by Police Chief Thomaschefski and LT. D’Onofrio, I thought we were getting thrown out. Turns out Chief Wally, as we were told to call him, use to ride and LT. Andy rides now and loves LI ABATE, and will be returning as a member. HOT DAMN the race is on and LI ABATE is in the lead by a few laps. They pointed us to a conference room where we sat and talked while waiting for Mayor Margo Garant. After about a 10 minute wait the Mayor came in, apologized for keeping us waiting and THANKED us for bringing the problem to her attention. It seems like this MAYOR cares about the people that live in and visit Port Jeff Village.

As I explained the rumors and stories going around, as mentioned before, she just shook her head and said “NO.” Wally made it perfectly clear THAT NO SUCH RULE, POLICY, CODE or LAW was ever made. The chief also stated that Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a DIRECTIVE POSTED for ALL Port Jeff Village officers as to what the rules and regulations are, concerning parking.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 18**



# MEMBERSHIP



As of the end of April, membership has increased to 526. Remember if you haven't already gotten your friends to join, let's get them signed up. Having the capability to renew on the website is working out well. Remember if you can't make it to a meeting or a function, you can always join or renew on-line. If you are having problems receiving e-mails notifications and/or the newsletter, please let me know.

**Renewals about to Expire** – If you have already sent in your renewals, Thank You. If you still need to submit your renewal, try out our new website.

P. Kunkel; K. Gallup; J. Signorelli; P. Denny; P. Gaudett; B. Barry; J. Messier; J. Roy. R. Stewart; S. McCarthy; M. Davis; T. Coccozza; F. Harris; S. Lewitt; M. Olsen; A. Brennan; B. Killeen; J. Maurer; J. Troyer; H. Byron; J. Ferrell; E. Hoffman. S. Meyerriecks; P. Durinick; A. Lobiano; J. Sowinski

Have a Safe Riding Season!!!

Kim

## June MILESTONES

C. Juliano	5 years
Loriann Lennon	5 years
Joe Hartman	5 years
Joseph Hurley	5 years

# PUBLIC RELATIONS



For those of you who don't know, May is Motorcycle Awareness Month. And even though May is coming to an end, our riding season has officially started and we need to continue telling and/or showing the Long Island

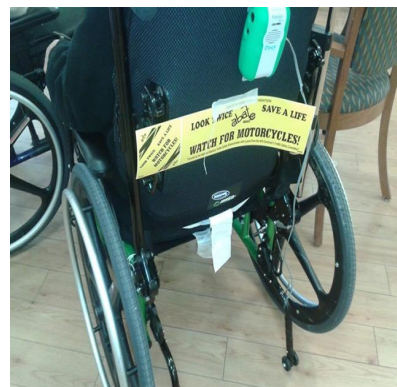
Drivers that we are out there riding around and to watch out for us.

I was listening to 103.9 WRCN the other morning and our Public Service Announcement came on to the tune of Can't You See with Doug Gray at the end asking drivers to look out for motorcycles and it put a smile on my face knowing that other drivers heard the same commercial and hopefully they became more aware of the bikes out and about.

Last Saturday I did my monthly visit to Northport VA with the Patriot Guard Riders. It is called the PGR NY Region 8/9 HOTH Mission (Help on the Home front) and we visit building 92 which is the nursing home. Some of the most amazing Veterans live there. Each month they look forward to seeing us and the bikes. They also look forward to the White Castle burgers, and birthday cake that we bring for them. We get two hours to visit with them, and play BINGO as well. This month I incorporated Motorcycle Awareness into the visit by handing out our new rubber

bracelets that say Watch out for Motorcycles/Long Island ABATE.. and they all got a Look Out for Motorcycles bumper sticker (which in the past we put on the back of their wheelchairs)

To my surprise a Brownie Troop showed up with 2 big boxes filled with donated Girl Scout Cookies. And when the cookies were handed out, each of the girls got a LI ABATE bracelet and bumper sticker as well, along with a little lesson from me to watch out for motorcycles..They are never too young to learn :)



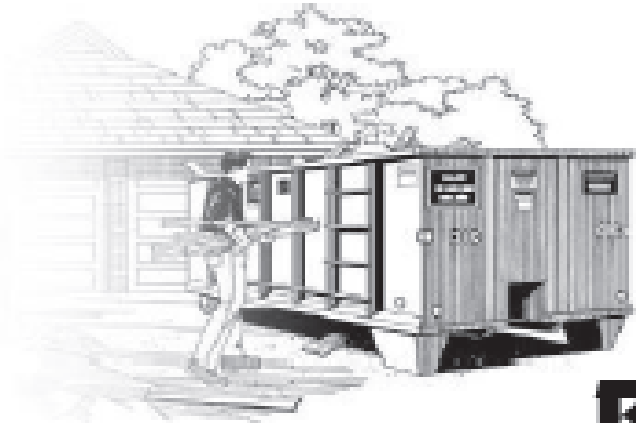
and last but not least Thank you to Bill Quinn for going with me to the LIMA meeting this month and speaking about our Veterans Run..and for being a patient man on our detoured route to the Queensboro Mc Clubhouse. Driving with me is always an adventure ..thankfully I had a lot of Watch for Motorcycle Signs to deliver to the clubs of LIMA otherwise being lost on the bikes would not have been so fun.

Until next month

Ride like the wind Cowboys and Cowgirls

Nancy Gee

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# MEETING MINUTES

as recorded by  
**Roseann Barr**



ABATE membership meeting 5-14-13 at the Cathedral Pines Activity Bldg., Middle Island  
Members enjoyed a barbeque before the start of the meeting. Thank you to **Bob**, from the **Bikers for Christ MC**, and to all those who helped with the cooking. Steve, our Road Captain, organized a ride to tonight's meeting from Oakdale Harley. We will have another barbeque at the June 11<sup>th</sup> membership meeting.

Meeting began at 7:40 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Recognition to **AJ Travis** and **Ice Cream John** who are 25 year members of ABATE of NY and have just become lifetime members.

Special welcome to **Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Kathy Walsh** and to **Mitch Proner of Proner and Proner Attorneys at Law**, who will be a guest speaker tonight.

Mitch Proner has also arranged for a film crew to be set up at tonight's meeting to produce a video which will help get publicity for ABATE. Mitch and Jim, President of LI ABATE, will speak about ABATE's mission of promoting motorcycle rights and awareness, as well as efforts made in the community, such as a food / clothing drive after superstorm Sandy, money raised for Veterans and food / toy drive during the holidays. Mitch has compiled an e-mail list of 128,000 registered motorcyclists in New York and Connecticut, in which this video e-mail will be dispersed. (The video will also appear on our website, [www.longislandabate.org](http://www.longislandabate.org)) Our goal is to increase membership in ABATE.

For the month of May, LI ABATE is focusing on motorcycle awareness. We have posted motorcycle awareness signs along selected county roads and are in the process of making additional signs. The Town of Brookhaven, with the support of **Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine** and each Town Council Member, has posted 6 additional motorcycle awareness signs in a visible location in each of the 6 town council districts. LI ABATE is also running a commercial, with **Doug Gray of the Marshall Tucker Band** promoting motorcycle awareness, on WRCN 103.9 and on My Country 96.1.

**Guest Speaker:** Mitch Proner, Attorney and Motorcycle Rights Advocate. He is also the NCOM Attorney for New York and Connecticut and a supporter of ABATE. Mitch filed a lawsuit against the NYS Troopers for the motorcycle only roadblocks. NYS Troopers applied for a grant under the guise of "safety" and combating the increase in motorcycle fatalities. Roadblocks were set up on route to popular motorcycle events, where all motorcycles were corralled and detained for up to 40 minutes. Most bikes were ticketed for non-safety issues, ie: exhaust pipes. Court ruling sided with the NYS Troopers. In 3/2012, Mitch filed an appeal. Scheduled arguments were to be heard in 11/2012, however, without hearing any arguments, the higher court issued a summary order affirming the lower court's decision. At this point Mitch states, we have two options. Either "let them kick our asses and get away with it" or look for a political means to fight this. H.R.904 was legislation sponsored by Rep. Sensenbrenner to cut off grants for funding motorcycle only checkpoints. Although this bill received bipartisan support, it died in committee. *No one from NY co-sponsored this bill.* Currently H.R. 1861 "Stop Motorcycle Checkpoint Funding Act" has 9 bipartisan co-sponsors. Letters were signed by members during this LI ABATE meeting to be sent to Congressman Tim Bishop or Congressman Peter King to cosponsor this bill.

*Meeting recessed to allow the film crew to break down. 8:35 Meeting continued.*

Jim and Stavros recently attended a fundraiser for **Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore**. (Tickets were not paid for with LI ABATE funds.) Legislator Muratore is a supporter of LI ABATE, and offered to help our efforts in any way possible. He is currently assisting us in gathering motorcycle crash data, so that we may look for possible patterns in motorcycle accidents. Jim and Stavros also had the opportunity to network with other local officials, who are increasing in their support of LI ABATE.

5/4 Regional Meeting of ABATE of NY, Cathedral Pines, Middle Island. **Tanya Cruz**, our **Regional Coordinator** ran the meeting. The **President of ABATE of NY, Tom Alton**, **Vice President of ABATE of NY, Matt Grossman**, representatives from **Brooklyn Chapter, Brooklyn Alliance Chapter** and **Long Island Chapter** were in attendance. Many LI ABATE members also attended. Some heated issues were raised, including the issue of ABATE chapters receiving a weighted vote at state chapter meetings. After some discussion and debate, President Alton agreed to write a proposal addressing the weighted vote issue, to be presented at the 5/19 state chapter meeting. Also discussed was the lack of an effective legislative agenda to be determined by ABATE of NY. LI ABATE members criticized the effectiveness and voiced their frustration with ABATE of NY. Some suggested that we break away from the state. *After the regional meeting, Jim was inundated by members asking to leave the state. LI ABATE Vice President, Wayne, asks members to write how they feel about remaining with the state either by e-mail or written letter.* New information learned at the regional meeting, stated by Tanya, was that the ABATE of NY newsletter has been suspended until conflicts with the printer have been resolved or a new printer is found.

Jim proposed opening a new corporation, Long Island ABATE Inc., as a 501c3 not for profit organization. The sole purpose of this corporation would be to apply for grants for motorcycle safety and awareness from NYS. NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Board and NYS DMV, those agencies instrumental in giving out grant money, are both very supportive of LI ABATE. *ABATE MAC was started at the state level, however we have been unsuccessful in obtaining any funds from them.*

5/18 (raindate) Newsday's Field of Wheels Car and Bike Show. LI ABATE will have a booth there to promote motorcycle safety and awareness. We have room for bikes to show at our booth. Please call hotline or e-mail if you'd like to show your bike.

5/19 ABATE of NY State meeting at Blackthorne, East Durham, NY.

5/20 ABATE of NY's Freedom Rally.

5/21 Press conference located on County Road 83 and Woodside at 11:00am. **Suffolk County Legislator Rob Calarco** wants to help LI ABATE with motorcycle awareness. We thank Legislator Calarco for carrying on with the support his predecessor, **Jack Eddington**, has always given us.

## Officer's Reports

**Wayne / First Vice President:** Wayne showed a sticker given out to those students that have attended the motorcycle awareness presentation he and Gina give at local high schools and BOCES programs. He encourages members to acknowledge students who have this sticker on their car, as they are helping us in our promotion of motorcycle safety. Wayne has also been laying out our newsletter and encourages members to write about a recent ride they've been on, a nice riding location, a cartoon, etc. Please send any submissions to Wayne.

**Stavros / Second Vice President:** Our 9<sup>th</sup> annual camp-out will be 8/17-8/18. **The Marshall Tucker Band cannot play at our campout due to restrictions place upon them by pre existing contracts by other promoters.** We are currently looking for two local bands to play at the campout. Tickets are now \$30 if purchased before August 1, and \$40 after this date. Ticket price includes, food, live music, bike games, wet t-shirt contest and camping fees. Tickets are limited, so please purchase early. Tickets are now available. *Please refer to Stavros' newsletter article for additional information.*

**Bill / Treasurer:** Treasury remains in good shape. 6/9 - Veterans Appreciation Run: Sign up is from 9:00 - 11:00 at the **Riverhead Elks**. Entrance is \$20 per rider / \$10 per passenger. We will ride out to Montauk for a ceremony, then an after party at **Cyril's Fish House**. Bill made contact with two WWII veterans,

one who was a POW and will receive the POW flag at our ceremony in Montauk. Bill also stated that a special honor will be given to all army veterans this year. *Bill has been able to secure a third backer for all funds raised on this run this year.* "We always talk about freedom of the road, but we would have no freedoms if not for these veterans." Bill also spoke about **Building Homes for Heroes** fundraiser, 5/19 at the Red River In. LI ABATE will have a booth there. See Bill for tickets and more info.

**Joe / Safety Officer:** It was brought to Joe's attention, that the left turn arrow at County Road 83 and Horseblock Road was only seconds long and posed a safety threat. Joe followed up on this and learned that the computer timing was set to keep traffic flowing, and not discriminatory toward motorcycles (it is equally short for cars). Someone from the county would have to reprogram the computer. Please bring any roadway concerns to Joe, as he attends Traffic and Safety Board meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month.

**Steve / Road Captain:** Steve continues to look for volunteers to help with road guarding. Steve will also set up a pre-meeting ride for the June membership meeting. *Please make sure your e-mails are available to Wayne or Kim in order to receive updates about these impromptu rides.*

**Nancy / Public Relations and Website:** Nancy attends monthly LIMA meetings and reports that LI ABATE is now a member of LIMA (Long Island Motorcycle Association). 5/19 Patriot Guard is visiting the Northport VA. 5/25 Patriot Guard will be at Section 42 at Calverton.

**Kim / Membership:** Memberships can now be renewed and new members may now sign up on our website through pay pal. We currently have approximately 300 provisional memberships. The first set of complimentary memberships has expired. Kim sent out a letter to solicit these expired complimentary members as full members.

**Bob / Sergeant At Arms:** Bob showed a new DOT helmet, which is slim, lightweight and low profile.

**Gina / Products:** The 2013 rockers have not yet arrived. Gina has a written list of those who did not receive these rockers at the Awareness Run and will mail a rocker to those who left their name and address.

**Jim / Distribution:** Flyers are available for the Veterans Run. If anyone would like to help with distribution, please see Jim Hartman.

**Ski / Chaplain:** (Bob spoke for Ski): 5/19 Scholarship Blood Drive from 12:00-6:00 at the Rushing Wind Biker Church. 6/15 - Downed Biker Run, also beginning at the church, \$15 per bike.

5/19 **Black and Red MC** Bash / Pig Roast, 2:00 - 6:00 @ Mulcahy's, Wantagh, \$15 donation.

5/25 **I Don't Know MC** Lend a Helping Hand, 6-7am @ 110 park and ride (exit 49) to Pinelawn National Cemetery to put flags on the graves of departed service men and women. \$6 donation

## From the Floor

**Bob / LI HOG:** Thanks LI ABATE for raising awareness of motorcycles and making the roads safe for us all.

**Todd / LI Rides:** Encourages all to visit his website, [LIRides.com](http://LIRides.com), to see what runs or events are happening on Long Island. If you would like an event posted, please contact Todd.

6/24 **Hibernians Poker Run** (see handbook for details). Rick / Raybud from the Red River In sent BOGO drink cards for all LI ABATE members after ABATE meeting.

**Motion 7-2013: Motion to adjourn. (seconded) All in favor.** Meeting adjourned at 9:55.





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# NEWS FROM LEGISLATOR ROB CALARCO



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 21, 2013

Contact: [Amy Keves](#)  
Office: (631) 854-1400

## -MEDIA RELEASE-

### CALARCO CALLS FOR DRIVERS TO LOOK TWICE & SAVE A LIFE; RECENT MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR INCREASED AWARENESS OF MOTORCYCLES

**Patchogue, LI—Tuesday, May 21, 2013:** In light of recent serious motorcycle accidents which have occurred in his Legislative District, Suffolk Legislator Rob Calarco is joining with Long Island ABATE (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education) to remind drivers that May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

"Over the last five years – on average, 174 people were killed in motorcycle accidents across New York State. In the last month alone, there have been two serious motorcycle accidents in my district. There are actions we can take to help prevent horrible tragedies like these from happening so frequently. The point of designating May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month was to draw drivers' collective attention to the fact that as the weather gets warmer, there are motorcycles on the road. Sometimes just that simple cognizance CAN make the difference," said Legislator Calarco.

Long Island ABATE has been promoting Motorcycle Awareness all month by posting large signs at strategically identified intersections across Long Island urging motorists to, "Think Twice, Safe a Life!" Jim Barr, President of Long Island ABATE said, "Motorists are accustomed to looking for another car when they are about to cross someone's right of way. There are studies that have shown that our minds automatically dismiss the danger of an object that is smaller than we are looking for. Therefore it is imperative that motorists actually look for motorcycles before they enter our path of travel."

Former Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington, who authored the original resolution naming May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Suffolk County, is also uniting with Legislator Calarco and Long Island ABATE to entreat drivers to be more aware of motorcyclists on the road. Eddington said, "As the summer months bring warmer temperatures, they also bring more motorcyclists on our roads. As a former Legislator, Chair of Public Safety, and as an avid motorcyclist I am all too aware of the high number of accidents caused by distracted motorists on the road. Unfortunately, unlike a motorist someone on a motorcycle is exposed to far greater injury in such accidents, which makes raising awareness to everyone on the road to look out for motorcycles all the more important."

Legislator Calarco went on, "The two most common causes of motorcycle accidents are driver distraction and failure of the driver to yield the Right of the Way - two factors which could potentially be reduced through increased awareness of motorcyclists' presences on our roadways."

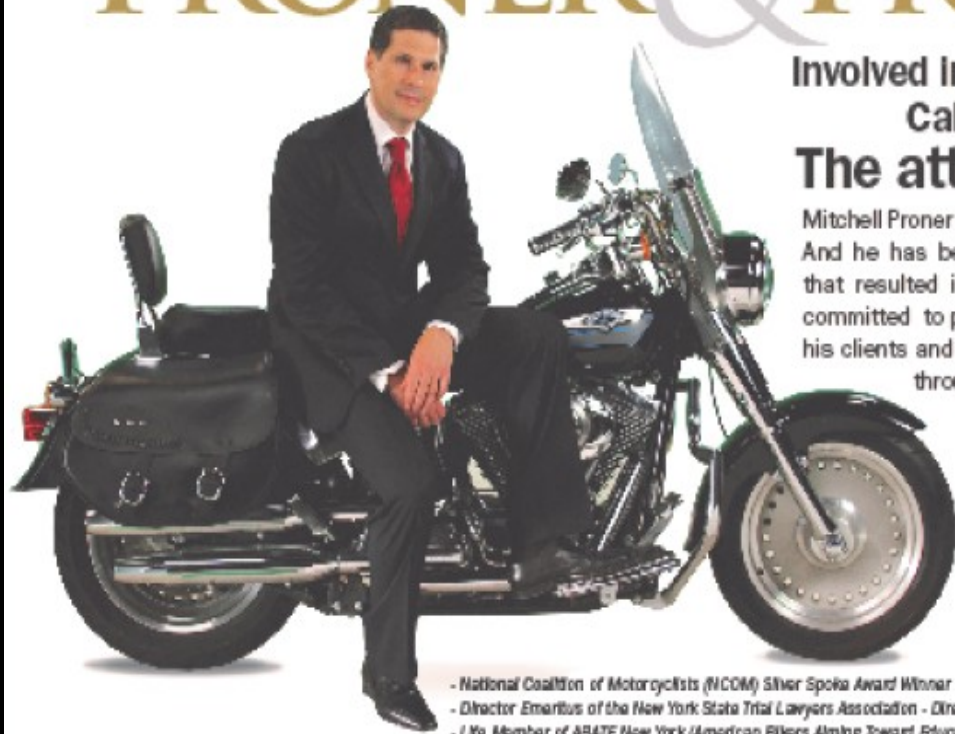


LI ABATE members with Suffolk County Leg. Rob Calarco and former County Leg. Jack Eddington at location of one of our signs during press conference to bring attention to Motorcycle Awareness Month.



Suffolk County Legislator Rob Calarco represents the 7th Legislative District which includes Patchogue, East Patchogue, North Patchogue, and Medford. Smaller portions of Blue Point, Bellport, Coram, Farmingville, Holtsville, Ronkonkoma, and Fire Island are also included in the District. He is Chairman of the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection committee, Vice Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, as well as a member of the Health Committee and the Ways & Means Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.

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- Director Emeritus of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association - Director At Large of the New York Academy of Trial Lawyers  
- Life Member of ABATE New York (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education) **BikerHelp.com**

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

We spoke of different solutions to the parking in PJ for bikes as well as cars, and the Mayor mentioned some very good ideas that would give motorcycles a better advantage for safe parking. There is a PARKING COMMITTEE in the village that is comprised of business owners, residents, and most likely a new member, as Jim Barr volunteered to join this group to work with the TOWN of BROOKHAVEN and the Village of Port Jeff to help these matters move along as smoothly as possible. During this meeting it was very obvious that the Mayor and police department are sincere with working with Long Island ABATE on these and other matters that may arise. As we continued I decided to go one step further and mention how LI ABATE has been able to place MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS SIGNS throughout the Suffolk County area and if Port Jeff would be interested in joining to promote motorists awareness to riders for their safety. Well guess what, Mayor Garant jumped on this offer and with LT Andy's input, we have picked four locations so far and maybe more if other sites are made available. In ending our meeting an open invitation was given to the Mayor and police dept. to attend a general meeting on a Tuesday night. The Mayor will work on freeing some time up to attend and Andy even offered to ride the Mayor to the meeting on his motorcycle.

All in all I feel like this time was well spent and a major accomplishment for all riders that visit Port Jeff has been made. Now it's time for all of the MOTORCYCLE COMMUNITY to respect the people of Port Jeff by limiting the amount of noise that their bikes make while within Village limits. The concerns that have been brought to the attention of the Mayor and the police are that riders make excessive noise entering and leaving. Also when they are grouped together on the street that they block the sidewalks and have been heard using vulgar language.

There are families that also like to spend time in the village. There are certain actions by some riders that are bringing complaints and are giving bikers a bad name. Riders always talk about RESPECT, this is to all, not just to bikers. Help us to work with this village in making it a more enjoyable time for everyone.

As we proceed with our objectives I will keep you updated as to the progress that is being made. If anyone has ideas on these issues or other matters involving Port Jeff Village or other communities PLEASE let us know. We cannot solve everything but attempts will be made to correct or explain what is brought forth.

REMEMBER roads are two way street as is RESPECT.

Thanks for reading, Steve



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